DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH



COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE SECTION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Preteen Vaccine Week "Take One for the Team: Score with a Shot"

San Bernardino: Completing immunizations before the end of the school year is as much a part of school as studying for finals. Being up to date on all your shots not only protects you, but also your classmates, friends and family. The County of San Bernardino Department of Public Health is promoting Preteen Vaccine Week, February 12-18, 2012 as part of a nationwide effort to remind families of preteens and adolescents about recommended and required immunizations.

"Protecting the health of San Bernardino County's youth is one of our most urgent priorities," said Maxwell Ohikhuare, M.D., San Bernardino County Health Officer. "As the current school year is wrapping up, we encourage families of preteens and adolescents to schedule a visit with their medical provider and get the shots they need to stay healthy and meet the school entry requirement."

For the 2012-2013 school year, all incoming 7th graders must provide proof of having immunization against whooping cough (also known as pertussis) before starting school. There is no reason to wait; parents are encouraged to have their children vaccinated with the whooping cough booster shot (Tdap), to protect them against whooping cough and to meet the school requirement.

Parents are encouraged to consult with their child's medical provider to get the following recommended immunizations for preteens & adolescents 11-18 years of age:

- Meningococcal (meningitis) vaccine & booster shot
- Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis) booster shot
- A second varicella (chickenpox) shot
- HPV (three-dose shot series) recommended for both girls and boys
- Seasonal flu shot
- Other immunizations may include hepatitis B, hepatitis A, MMR, and polio if they have not been previously vaccinated

If your preteen or adolescent does not have health insurance or is under insured, ask your medical provider or the local health department for information about the Vaccines for Children Program, which provides vaccines at low-cost. For Department of Public Health Clinic locations, schedules and appointments, call 1-800-722-4777, Monday - Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., or visit www.sbcounty.gov/dph. For additional immunization information, please visit www.sbcounty.gov/dph.

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